

What is claimed is:

1. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus comprising

excitation light emitting means for projecting
excitation light onto a target tissue, and

illuminating light emitting means for projecting
illuminating light onto the target tissue, and

fluorescent-light image obtaining means for obtaining
a fluorescent-light image formed of the fluorescent-light
emitted from the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the
excitation light, and

a normal-image obtaining means for obtaining a
normal-image formed of the illuminating light reflected from
the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the illuminating
light, further comprising

a contact detecting means for detecting that the distal
end of excitation light emitting means has come into contact
with the target tissue, and

an excitation light emission controlling means for
controlling, in response to the detection signal of said
contact detecting means, the output of the excitation light
emitted from the excitation light emitting means.

2. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as
defined in claim 1, wherein

the excitation light emission control means is a current
controlling means for controlling the current occurring in the

excitation light source.

3. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

5 said excitation light emission controlling means causes the emission of the excitation light from the excitation light emitting means to stop.

4. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

10 said excitation light emission controlling means causes the excitation light from the excitation light emitting means to be emitted at an intensity below a predetermined value.

5. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus comprising

15 excitation light emitting means for projecting excitation light onto a target tissue, and

illuminating light emitting means for projecting illuminating light onto the target tissue, and

20 fluorescent-light image obtaining means for obtaining a fluorescent-light image formed of the fluorescent-light emitted from the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the excitation light, and

25 a normal-image obtaining means for obtaining a normal-image formed of the illuminating light reflected from the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the illuminating light, further comprising

a distance parameter detecting means for detecting a

parameter correlating the distance between the distal end of excitation light emitting means and the target tissue, and

an excitation light emission controlling means for controlling, based on the parameter detected by the distance parameter detecting means, the output of the excitation light emitted from the excitation light emitting means.

6. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein

the parameter is based on the light intensity of the fluorescent-light image obtained by the fluorescent-light image obtaining means.

7. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein

the parameter is based on the pixel values of the entire image or a predetermined portion of a fluorescent-light image obtained by the fluorescent-light image obtaining means.

8. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 5, wherein

the parameter is the light intensity of the normal-image obtained by the normal-image obtaining means.

9. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 8, wherein

the parameter is based on the pixel values of the entire image or a predetermined portion of a normal-image obtained by the normal-image obtaining means.

10. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as

defined in claim 5, further comprising

reference-light emitting means for projecting a
reference-light onto the target tissue, and

reflected-light image obtaining means for obtaining a
reflected-light image reflected from the target tissue upon
irradiation thereof by the reference-light, wherein

said parameter is based on the light intensity of the
reflected-light image obtained by the reflected-light image
obtaining means.

11. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as
defined in claim 10, wherein

the parameter is based on the pixel values of the entire
image or a predetermined portion of a reflected-light image
obtained by the reflected-light image obtaining means.

12. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as
defined in claim 5, wherein

the excitation light emission control means is a current
controlling means for controlling the current occurring in the
excitation light source.

13. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as
defined in claim 5, wherein

said excitation light emission controlling means causes
the emission of the excitation light from the excitation light
emitting means to stop.

14. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as
defined in claim 5, wherein

said excitation light emission controlling means causes the excitation light from the excitation light emitting means to be emitted at an intensity below a predetermined value.